



SAFETY DIVISION

Another Motorcycle Fatality

AFZA-PS-S

13 July 04

One soldier's decisions can and will affect others!

BACKGROUND:

On 10 July 04, at approximately 2215, two soldiers operating Suzuki 400 dirt bikes collided with each other.

The two soldiers involved decided to attend a "party," and one of the soldiers made a decision to consume alcohol. Both soldiers decided to operate the dirt bikes. The "first" soldier decided to put on his protective helmet, the "second" soldier made another decision not to wear a helmet.

It appears that the first soldier crested a hill and came to a stop waiting for the second soldier. The second soldier came over the hill at a high rate of speed and collided with the first motorcycle.



The second motorcycle collided with the first motorcyclist's leg which resulted in a crushed and shattered the leg. Upon impact, the second motorcycle operator was thrown from the dirt bike. This individual struck the ground with such force that he received life threatening head injuries. This soldier struggled on life support throughout the evening and was pronounced dead at 0745 hours the following day. The other soldier was one...he was transported to WAMC for a serious leg injury and later was medically evacuated to Walter Reed Medical Facility for extensive surgery or leg amputation. The two dirt bikes survived the collision almost unscathed unlike their riders.

LESSONS LEARNED - ACCIDENT PREVENTION:

-- Soldiers' decisions can and will affect others. Bad decisions, along with their inexperience and alcohol usage caused this accident.